

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the followings remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully reconsidering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment, as support for this amendment may be found, for example, in Figures 7 and 8A of the originally filed application.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,886,221 ("Minami"). Independent claim 1 has been amended in this reply. To the extent that this rejection applies to claim 1 as amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Of the rejected claims, claim 1 is independent. Claim 1 recites a hinge apparatus including a first hinge member, a second hinge member turnably connected to the first hinge member, a moveable member, and a biasing member. The movable member is arranged on a turning axial line of the first and second hinge members in such a manner as to be turnable about the turning axial line and movable in the direction of the turning axial line. The biasing means is then adapted to bias the movable member toward the first hinge member. Further, the first hinge member and the movable member have confronting surfaces, in which one of the confronting

surfaces is provided with a plurality of end face cams extending in the peripheral direction about the turning axial line and equally spacedly arranged in the peripheral direction about the turning axial line. This confronting surface is also provided with a raised wall surface extending in the direction of the turning axial line and disposed between two of the end face cams which are adjacent in the peripheral direction. Furthermore, a recess is formed in a basal end portion of the raised wall surface and located at the intersection of the raised wall surface and the end came face so as to extend into the raised wall surface in the peripheral direction about the turning axial line. The raised wall surface is then located between the recess and the other of said confronting surfaces in the direction of the turning axial line.

Minami, in particular, shows in Figure 2 a folding device 32 having a movable part 12, a metallic slider 14, an actuator case 25, and an actuator return spring 28. The Examiner asserts that the movable part 12 and the metallic slider 14 most closely resemble the first hinge member and the movable member, respectively, of the present invention. As such, the movable part 12 includes a movable cam 13 that engages a stationary cam 15 of the metallic slider 14. The Examiner then further asserts that movable part 12 includes a raised wall surface (between cams 13 on part 12) extending in the direction of the direction of a turning axial line, in which a recess 15A is formed in the raised wall surface and extends in a peripheral direction about a turning axial line.

Applicant, though, respectfully asserts that Minami fails to teach all of the elements of amended independent claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 additionally requires that the other of the confronting surfaces be provided with a pair of abutment parts, in which the raised wall surface is located between the recess and the other of the confronting surfaces in the direction of the turning axial line. For example, as shown in Figures 7 and 8A of the present

application, the raised wall surface **11d** is located between the abutment arm parts **42a** and the recess **11e** in a direction along the axis of the hinge apparatus. As such, the recess **11e** is formed at the base (*i.e.*, basal end portion) of the raised wall surface **11d** and extends into the raised wall surface **11d**. By including the recess **11e** at the basal end portion of the wall surface **11d**, the total length of the end face cam **41** may be extended so as to enable more than 180 degrees of rotation between the stationary cylinder **11** and the movable member **42**.

Minami, however, neither shows nor suggests having the raised wall surface located between the recess and a confronting surface having abutment parts formed thereon. Rather, as shown in Figure 1 in Minami and indicated by the Examiner in the illustration provided on page 4 in the Office Action dated May 30, 2008, the raised wall surface is located outside, *and not between*, the recess and the abutment parts in the direction of the turning axial line of the hinge apparatus. Thus, Minami fails to show or suggest the recess of the present application and as required by independent claim 1.

In view of the above, Minami fails to teach each limitation recited in independent claim 1, as amended. Thus, independent claim 1 is patentable over Minami. Dependent claims 2 and 3 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

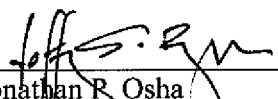
Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 12088/042001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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